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that if we had begun the evening with them we might have descanted upon them for a good hour with great satisfaction. Let me, however, state that the brothers Schlagintweit were selected to perform these services in the East by my illustrious friend the late Baron Humboldt. And why? These gentlemen had ascended peaks of the Alps which no other persons had climbed, and had made themselves acquainted with phenomena with reference to the mountain system of that country which were before that unknown to geographers. It was, therefore, felt that they were especially capable of undertaking the examination of the range. I think we have reason to thank them for bringing before us such natural features as are indicated in the beautiful drawings on our table, and I am sure that the Geographical Society does well in recognizing the merits of these distinguished German explorers.

The President.—It is too late to enter into any discussion. We are much indebted to Sir Roderick Murchison for bringing these drawings under your notice, and our thanks are eminently due to the Messrs. Schlagintweit.

ADDITIONAL NOTICES.

1. *Geognostic Sketch of the Western portion of Timor.* By Dr. Salomon Müller.

Communicated by John Yeats, Esq., LL.D., F.R.G.S., &c.

The exterior of the western portion of Timor is very mountainous. Countless streams of various size springing from a central elevated ridge, traverse the island in a northerly or southerly direction. Their beds are mostly strewn with boulders and sandy gravel from different species of rocks.

The principal mountains of Timor's western half are of the older Neptunian formation, systematically designated the greywacke group.

a. The greywacke limestone, forming in Timor huge piles of rock and steep mountains, some of them rising 4000 to 5000 feet above the sea-level, consists of a thick mass, with flat shelly fracture, commonly of a grey, but sometimes of a red colour, and intersected in all directions with veins of white calcareous spar, often in quantities so large that the original mass almost disappears, and the rock assumes a crystalline aspect. Large or small hollows or fissures, covered with pointed rhomboidal crystals of calcareous spar, are not unfrequently found in it.

The hills and higher elevations composed of this limestone may be easily distinguished, even at a considerable distance, by their characteristic forms, from the rest of the island. Their outlines are mostly very angular, often serrated, and not unfrequently exhibit needle-like and turreted tops, that rise to an imposing altitude.

b. The greywacke sandstone connecting itself immediately with the preceding species of rock, forms mountains less strongly marked by rude and sharp outlines; yet some of them with conical tops belong to the highest peaks (6000 to 7000 feet) of the island. To them, besides, rounder and more softly swelling lines are peculiar, not unfrequently consisting of long backs; while their declivities are commonly covered with grass, bushes, or trees, through which the naked cliff glistens at intervals. The rock itself is of a grey or yellow-brown colour. The granular specks imbedded in a scarcely distinguishable paste, are irregular in size, varying from a line to infinitesimal minuteness.

c. The clayslate exhibits a homogeneous mass of very scaly properties. The colour varies from a light grey to a dark black. As the carboniferous particles increase, the rock possesses less cohesion and solidity, which peculiarity in the black variety increases to such an extent, that it is transformed into a true drawing-slate, the so-termed black chalk.

The greywacke group is at Timor the principal formation, and it really contributes to the peculiar character of the country. Including the highest mountains, it extends from close to the bay of Koepang, in a north-easterly direction, through the middle of the island to almost equal distances from both sides of the sea-coast, and thus forms as it were the core of the country to which the other formations attach themselves. The richest gold-bearing rivers, as well as those in the beds of which pieces of pure copper and copper ores are found, have their sources within its limits, and flow through it for a considerable distance.

At the southern foot of the mountain Mieomaffo, near to the place where the clay-slate forms a vast deposit, the sandstone of the above-named group is broken through by serpentine.

Along with the serpentine, and closely related to it, appears a conglomerate containing angular pieces of common serpentine and ophites, mixed with more or less altered remnants of greywacke sandstone, which pieces of stone are united into one solid mass by means of a pitchstone-like paste.

To judge from what we have seen and heard respecting gold and copper at Koepang, we think it must be maintained that the eastern parts of the island under Portuguese sovereignty are much more richly endowed than the western districts belonging to the territory of the Netherlands. Almost all the copper, as well as most of the golddust, obtainable at Koepang, and brought chiefly by Chinese merchants, is derived from the Belonese countries. Mines, however, properly speaking, are nowhere to be found; those metals are mostly obtained by washing from the beds of rivers, and from other places, out of a sandy or clayish soil. The value of the Timor gold is commonly 20 to 21½ carats in fineness. Copper often appears in a pure state. Amongst others we have received at Koepang, from the Portuguese territory, a pure piece of the weight of 2·68 kilogrammes, and of a fig-like form. Other similar pieces of pure copper were seen by us there of different sizes. Professor Reinwaardt makes mention further, in a report concerning the appearance and the quality of the metal in the island of Timor in the year 1827, furnished by him to the Minister of Marine and the Colonies, of a very rich copper ore containing nearly 85 per cent. of pure metal, which may easily be obtained from it by proper smelting. With this ore derived from the Dutch territory, are mixed, moreover, says this savant, single pieces of pure copper.

Our reports differ in more than one respect very considerably from those of our predecessors, among whom Peron, for instance, maintains that Timor is indebted for its existence to the slow but ceaseless labours of the coral insect; while Quoy, Guachichaud, Freycinet, and other later travellers, ascribe it chiefly to volcanic action. There are no volcanic mountains, nor were even the slightest traces of true volcanic rocks found by us.

Pulo Kambing, in the strait Samauw, is composed of the greywacke sandstone, and contains mud volcanoes.

Pulo Samauw has mineral springs.